GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
SPECIAL COURT IN JAILS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up separate courts in the prison complexes for disposing of the minor cases keeping in view the increasing number of prisioners in the prisons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up special cells in the prison complexes to extend legal aid to the prisoners;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (e) Both the Government and Judiciary are concerned with the problem of undertrials languishing in jails. Hon`ble Chief Justice of India has suggested to all the Chief Justices of High Courtsthat in every Districtthe Chief Judicial Magistrates or Chief Metropolitan Magistrates, as the case may be, should hold their Courts in their respective Jails once or twice ina month to take up the cases of those undertrial prisoners who are petty offenders and may be willing to confess their guilt. Pursuant to the above, about 8083 cases of undertrial prisoners have been disposed of inside the jails under the jurisdiction of eight (8) High Courts alone between 1.1.2000 to 31.3.2000. In the Central Jail, Delhi, about 300 cases were settled in the course of three sittings only.

In some States,`Legal Aid Cells` have already been established in jails which provide legal aid and advice to the inmates.